

RIXEY CRITICISES BROWNSON

STATEMENT BY THE SURGEON-GENERAL OF THE NAVY.

He Says His Bureau Has Been Too Much Interfered With by the Bureau of Navigation—Argues That Hospital Ships Should Be Commanded by Surgeons.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The resignation of Rear Admiral Willard H. Brownson from the office of Chief of the Naval Bureau of Navigation because President Roosevelt overruled his objection to placing a naval surgeon in command of a hospital ship is not likely to end the controversy between the line and the staff of the naval service. Admiral Brownson's protest was the breath applied to a smouldering flame, and there who have known of all the trouble that has been brewing for a long time realize that the matter cannot be adjusted without much discussion and the distribution of some hard knocks.

Coming right on top of the publication of Henry Rutterdahl's attack on the bureau system of the Navy Department, the controversy between Admiral Brownson and Surgeon-General Rixey assumes a very important and far-reaching aspect. It has served to call attention to the differences that exist between the bureau of the Navy Department and to demonstrate the need of a more harmonious administration. Nothing more will be needed to attract the attention of Congress to Mr. Rutterdahl's strictures, and when the Senate and the House reassemble after the holidays there is bound to be a thorough airing of the causes which have operated to bring about conditions which naval officers themselves are anxious to remedy.

Surgeon-General Rixey came into the limelight to-night by giving out a prepared statement of his side of the controversy with Admiral Brownson which led to the Admiral's resignation. There is enough in what the Surgeon-General says to indicate that the statement has the sanction of President Roosevelt. It presents the President's attitude in the controversy in an authoritative way, and from some of the Surgeon-General's expressions it is impossible to escape the conviction that the President is resentful of the radical course pursued by Admiral Brownson to emphasize his adherence to a principle.

"The internal administration of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery," says the Surgeon-General, who is the chief of that bureau, "has been in my opinion too much interfered with by the Bureau of Navigation. This interference has at times caused me grave concern as to how I could meet the needs of those under my care."

Admiral Rixey's snappy utterance will not be lost on those who believe that there is much truth in the criticisms of the inharmonious working of the naval bureau system, and additional food for thought will be supplied in another declaration of Admiral Rixey, that if it had not been for the Bureau of Navigation the naval hospital ship Relief, the dispute over the command of which brought about Admiral Brownson's resignation, would now be with Admiral Evans's fleet instead of out on the Pacific coast.

The trouble which brought about the resignation of Admiral Brownson from the Bureau of Navigation is interesting to the whole official contingent in Washington on account of its personal aspect. Admiral Brownson has been President Roosevelt's intimate friend for years. Surgeon-General Rixey is the White House physician, as he was when Mr. McKinley was President. Both Admiral Brownson and Admiral Rixey were on terms of intimacy with the Roosevelt family. Many naval officers are inclined to believe that the Surgeon-General exercised his personal influence to greater advantage than Admiral Brownson and thus went in the dispute as to whether a line officer or a surgeon should command the Relief.

Admiral Rixey's statement gives a detailed explanation of his and President Roosevelt's attitude in the controversy. He says:

"Admiral Brownson and I have been friends for many years and when on duty in Washington as naval attending surgeon I was his family physician. His resignation as Chief of the Bureau of Navigation has been assigned to various causes, among others to a difference of opinion as to the command of the hospital ship Relief. While I do not know that there is a cause, it may be interesting to know the present status of this question."

"Hospital ships as a rule always have been commanded by medical officers, with a sailing master and civilian crew for purposes of navigation. The Relief, formerly belonging to the United States Army, was always commanded by a medical officer when used as a hospital ship. A joint board of army and navy medical officers, convened by Executive order more than a year ago to attempt to unify the medical services as much as possible, recommended that hospital ships should be commanded by medical officers, and the recommendation was approved by both the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy in general orders."

"The question was settled definitely so far as the army was concerned during the civil war, and all hospital ships and medical transports were placed under the Surgeon-General of the Army, and has remained so up to the present time. The Japanese naval hospital ships were commanded by medical officers, after having tried line officers. Hospital ships are simply floating hospitals and as such are considered by all services to be properly under the control of the Medical Department, which is directly responsible for the care of the sick and injured of the service."

"Naval medical officers have had positive rank for some years, given them by act of Congress, but as the use of titles which indicate rank has been denied them it is not generally known. They also have the right to command in their own corps and all those who are entrusted to their care, whether on the sick list, in the hospitals or on hospital ships."

"I have contended that hospital ships should be conducted in peace exactly as in time of war. During war time line officers cannot be spared and do not and should not desire the command of these ships, and it has always been considered a doubtful question if the Geneva and Hague agreements could guarantee the neutrality of these ships if combatant (line) officers

LAWRENCE DELMOUR IS DEAD

WHISPERING LARRY TALKING OF CROKER TO THE END.

He and the Boss Were Close Friends and Climbed the Political Ladder Together—Tammany Leader Up to a Few Years Ago—Prospered in Real Estate.

Lawrence Delmour—Whispering Larry they called him, from his manner of imparting confidential information that came from Richard Croker—died at 3:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home, 118 East Eighty-ninth street. His wife and the Rev. Father Casey of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Ignatius Loyola were at the bedside when death came.

A severe attack of grip which developed into pneumonia was the direct cause of his death.

Dr. E. B. Ramsdell, who is one of the surgeons of the Fire Department, attended him at first and was hopeful up to the day before yesterday, when symptoms of pneumonia showed themselves. Dr. Edward Janeway was called in and said that because of the patient's advanced age the case was serious.

Mr. Delmour became unconscious at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The physicians were summoned and administered oxygen, but could not rouse him. For a year or more Mr. Delmour had been suffering from chronic myocarditis, but it wasn't until he contracted the grip that he was compelled to take to his bed. Dr. Ramsdell found that he also had congestion of the lungs.

The funeral arrangements will not be completed until to-day, but it was said that the services will likely be held in the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, Park avenue and Eighty-fourth street.

Justice Herman Joseph of the Municipal Court visited the Delmour home early yesterday to give his friend a Christmas greeting. When the Justice entered the bedroom the patient was unable to recognize him, but his mind cleared up for a short time.

"Hello, Larry! How do you feel?" said Justice Joseph. "I'll pull through this yet and fool the professor, as I did before when he said I was going to die," responded the sick man as he reached out his hand from under the bedclothes.

"Now, boss, you must keep the clothes on or you'll get more cold," said the Justice. "I'm sticking to my job all the time," said the patient as he tucked the clothes about his neck. His eyes wandered to a large photograph of Croker and himself in their young days that hung on the wall opposite his bed. Then he began talking as if to himself.

"I'll bet Mr. Croker will win the next Derby with a new horse. That's a great man for you—he never went back on a friend. We've been friends these many years, and I know him as well as any one."

He had several spells of delirium in the last few days and between them his mind seemed to be occupied with politics.

When Dr. Janeway spoke about Delmour's age being an unfavorable factor in the case he had to guess at the age. For Larry has always been a bit uncertain as to his own age. A short time ago he told a friend that he would not be surprised to learn that he was fully 68 years old.

When a young man began to talk politics and was always ready for a shindy or a ruction, Croker and he became warm friends and both climbed the political ladder together.

He came to this country with his mother when he was a boy. He studied in the public schools and then was employed by a leather manufacturer in Vesey street. Delmour remained there several years, leaving that trade to go into the milk business. He was manager for some time of Joseph King's livery stables, which then occupied the site on which the Murray Hill Hotel stands. He afterward became a member of the auction firm of Seabacher & Delmour and Gerard, Betts & Co.

Delmour had a great fondness for politics and in 1876 was appointed marshal for the collection of arrears of taxes, an office which he retained for four years. He was a deputy sheriff under the administration of Hugh J. Grant, remaining there until Gen. Sickles took charge, when he declined a reappointment.

Delmour was selected as district leader for the old Twenty-second district in 1882, succeeding ex-Judge McQuade, and upon the reorganization was chosen leader of the Twenty-fourth district. It had a citizen population of 43,000 and was usually carried by a slight Democratic majority. Later he moved into the Thirtieth district and was the leader up to about five years ago.

Larry did his listening faithfully and enjoyed the fullest confidence of Croker, whom he had known since the milk vending days. He was able gradually to throw his business cares and that gave him more time to associate with Croker, grow more reticent and work his way into supremacy in Tammany Hall politics. Tammany district leaders regarded him as the man to whom Croker was indebted for much of the information upon which he acted.

Whispering Larry's "office" was up against the wire fence on the south side of Chambers street just outside of the Tweed court house. He was certain to appear there every morning at the stroke of 10 and remain talking with such persons as Plunkitt, Sullivan and Engel until noon. Once in a while when Croker was in town Delmour would show up at the Democratic Club, but not often. When the boss wanted Larry he knew where to find him.

Delmour walked away from his associates when he wanted to discuss a confidential subject, but this was hardly necessary, as his voice could barely be heard two feet distant. He liked to have persons greet him, and was willing to discuss the weather or any other subject upon which he did not have to commit himself.

He acquired a fortune rated by some as high as half a million dollars and owned a good deal of property on City Island, one of his homes. In appearance he suggested physical strength and looked like a professional wrestler. His head was massive and his features were strongly marked.

His first wife, whom he married in early life, was a daughter of John the forger. They had no children. She died in 1905 he married Miss Jean Walsh, a trained nurse, who took him through an attack of pneumonia of four months duration. She survives him.

His last illness was attended by Dr. Ramsdell, Dr. Janeway and Dr. H. H. Ramsdell. He was buried in the Catholic cemetery at St. Ignatius.

His funeral will be held at 3 o'clock to-morrow at St. Ignatius Church, Park avenue and Eighty-fourth street.

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NEW SENATOR FROM FLORIDA.

Gov. Broward Appoints Wm. James Bryan to Succeed the Late Senator Mallory.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 25.—Gov. Napoleon B. Broward to-day appointed William James Bryan of Jacksonville to the United States Senate to fill out the unexpired term of the late Stephen R. Mallory. The appointment had been expected, for Bryan has been a sort of right hand man to Gov. Broward in a political way. Bryan is a young man, being only about 30 years old. He is a native of Florida.

He removed to Jacksonville from Orange county several years ago and began the practice of law. He took an active part in politics and was instrumental in carrying Duval, the county in which Jacksonville is located, for Broward when he was candidate for Governor. Since then he has been the Governor's chief political adviser.

Two years ago Bryan was elected Solicitor of the Duval County Court, which position he still holds. Some time before Mallory died Bryan had announced that he would be a candidate for the Senate. Ex-Senator D. M. Fletcher and Congressman Lamar have also announced their candidacy.

TO EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA.

Party of Scientists to Spend Five Years in the Southern Hemisphere.

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—George Melville Boynton, scientist and soldier, has organized an expedition to explore the west of South America. He is to have Hollis Burgess, son of the famous yacht designer, as second in command. Capt. Frederick Denham West, widely known as a navigator, will be captain; John Vessey Colquhoun of New York will be second officer, and Howard King Parker of Boston will be third officer.

A Gloucester fishing vessel has been bought and will be rechristened The Discovery. There will be in all about thirty-five men on the Discovery. In addition to the crew there will be men who desire to make the voyage with the same motive as the leader.

The Discovery will not be ready to sail until March, as the work of overhauling will not be completed before that time.

Mr. Boynton is a member of the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain and has spent over ten years in explorations in South America. The present trip is to last five years. Operations will be confined chiefly to the unexplored region south of the Amazon River, between four and ten degrees south latitude, but the expedition will eventually follow the Amazon to its source and cross the Andes, coming out at Punta Parita, Peru.

In the party there will be botanists, mineralogists, ethnologists, taxidermists and photographers.

WHOLESALE TREASON TRIAL.

100 Prominent Russians Expect Prison Terms—Signed Viborg Manifesto.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 25.—The trial began to-day of 100 members of the Duma who signed the Viborg manifesto, the charge against them being treasonable practices. The accused include Prof. Murontzeff, who was President of the first Duma; Prince Dolgorouff, the Vice-President; Prince Tolstoy, Prince Shukhovskiy, Count P. Tolstoy and numerous nobles and lawyers who are identified with the constitutional aspirations of the Constitutional Democrats. The reading of the indictment occupied the entire session.

When the name of Prof. Murontzeff was called all the other accused rose and stood in respectful silence. They did the same when the names were called of two signers of the manifesto who have since died.

A majority of the accused admit that they signed the manifesto, but they plead that they acted within their rights.

The maximum penalty for their offence is three years imprisonment and loss of their civil rights. Most of them expect that they will be found guilty and sentenced from four months to a year's imprisonment in a fortress and to deprivation of their civil rights.

After the dissolution of the first Duma in July, 1907, its ex-members assembled at Viborg, in Finland, and issued a manifesto, which was signed by over two hundred of their number, urging the people to stand up for the trampled rights of popular representation and advising them to give neither money nor soldiers during the period of the suspension of the Duma. Loans contracted by the Government, they said, would be invalid without the consent of the popular representatives.

ERIE THREATENS RATE WAR.

Announces Withdrawal of Chicago-New York Rates on January 1.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—The Erie Railroad has announced the withdrawal of all its passenger rates now published in the Chicago rate sheet, and a rate war will be precipitated unless the other Chicago-New York roads bring enough pressure to bear to stop the new rates which the Erie proposes to establish will be announced January 1, and if filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission then will become effective February 1.

This action by the Erie has aroused all the other trunk lines, and it is probable that several more will cancel their rates in the Chicago rate sheet. The New York Central, Lake Shore and Western, which they wish to put in new rates between Chicago and all points East.

No announcement has been made by the Erie officials as to just how far the cut in rates will go. It is reported, however, that if the fight becomes hot the tariffs will be cut a second time, and it is not improbable that for a time the fare between Chicago and New York will be \$12. The second class fare is now \$10, which represents a cut of \$2.

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THE SHIPS IN XMAS GREENERY

TROPICAL PLANTS BEDECK THE WHITE BATTLE FLEET.

Day of Jollification for Admiral Evans's Officers and Bluejackets—Remembrance From Home—Races, Athletics and Much Dining in Trinidad Harbor.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Dec. 25.—The American battleship fleet, at anchor in the harbor here, presented a beautiful sight to-day. Each of the ships in celebration of the holiday was decorated with Christmas greens from meadest to water line.

The decorations, however, did not consist of firs, hemlocks and spruces, the evergreens of the North, but of the tropical palms and bamboos, which added a touch of strangeness to the sight as viewed by some on the warships.

The day was one of jollification among officers and men. There were Christmas trees in the wardrooms of all the ships bearing gifts for the officers from wives, children and other relatives, from sweethearts and friends, to show that though many miles from home they were not forgotten. Most of the gifts were presented while the ships were in Hampton Roads, with the understanding that the packages were not to be opened until Christmas Day.

Considerable sport was furnished by races between boat crews from the various battleships. The race for dingies was won by a crew from the Louisiana, while a boat manned from the Kansas proved victorious in the race for officers.

In addition to the races comic athletic exercises were held on all the ships and there were numerous boxing contests.

This afternoon the officers of the Minnesota entertained all the other officers of the fleet at a very pleasant reception.

This evening many dinner parties were given and there was great festivity and general good will.

The torpedo flotilla, the departure of which was delayed yesterday by an accident to the Whipple's propeller, sailed again at 8 o'clock this morning, its destination being Para, Brazil.

OFFERED BRYAN A SENATORSHIP.

Oklahoma Democrats Wanted Him to Move Over and Lead Them.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Dec. 25.—Thomas H. Doyle of Perry, recent aspirant for the Oklahoma Democratic gubernatorial nomination, said to-day:

"One of the unwritten stories of Oklahoma politics is that William J. Bryan was invited and for a time seriously considered moving to Oklahoma to lead the fight for statehood with the assurance that his reward would be election as one of Oklahoma's first United States Senators. This offer was made to him in 1902 by me as spokesman of the Democratic workers' conference, which was convinced that the only chance for statehood in a generation was by securing a leader of national prominence."

"Mr. Bryan, when I joined him on a train going through Oklahoma to Tulsa, said he would much rather be Senator from a great State than President. He promised to consider the proposition. Several days later on his return he told me he had his newspaper and other interests in Lincoln and he did not see how he could afford to take the step."

SUIT AGAINST MINERS COMPANY.

Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company Asks for Its Dissolution.

GOLDFIELD, Nev., Dec. 25.—A suit of the most far-reaching importance in labor controversies is to be filed in the United States Court at Carson to-morrow by the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company.

It is directed against the Federation of Miners and asks for an injunction prohibiting picketing and all interference with the operations of the mining company and also prays for the dissolution of the Miners Union. The Western Federation, Charles McKinnon, president, and eighteen other officers of the local branch are named in the complaint.

After reciting the richness of the properties of the company and telling of the great number of stockholders in many States whose interests are involved, the complaint asserts that the Western Federation of Miners is organized for the destruction of property and to create "endless strife, disorder, bloodshed and rioting."

The Goldfield branch of the Federation is charged with "intimidation, wanton destruction of property, murder of innocent citizens, lawlessness and anarchy to such an extent that it has constituted a reign of terror in the Goldfield district."

The complaint asserts that the Goldfield union is a criminal society, and asks that the Goldfield branch of the union be prohibited from holding further meetings.

NEW WARDEN IN RAYMOND ST.

Alderman Richard Wright Gets the Job on January 1.

Alderman Richard Wright of the Fifty-eighth Aldermanic district, Williamsburg, who was not re-elected, was appointed warden of the county jail yesterday by Sheriff-elect Alfred T. Hobbey.

The new warden will have charge of the civil prisoners in the present jail until such time as the city provides a separate jail. The present jail will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction after January 1, which will be the first day of Warden Wright's term.

LYING ON ELEVATED TRACKS.

Attempt to Save Man From Being Run Over Came Too Late.

An unidentified man was run over and killed last night by a southbound Third avenue elevated train near the south end of the Houston street station.

Some one on the platform saw the man lying across the tracks as if asleep. This person ran in to inform the ticket taker. Together the two men rushed out, the ticket taker swinging a white lantern, the only thing he could grab up. A train was already bearing down on the man and although the motorman, Martin Bigger of 114 Freeman street, The Bronx, put on the brakes, the train was not stopped in time.

It took half an hour to extricate the body, which was lodged under the second car. The man was of middle age, unshaven and poorly dressed. There was nothing in his pockets but 20 cents and a Chinese laundry ticket.

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EAST SIDE RENT STRIKE.

Many Tenants Join in Effort to Force Prices Down.

Many of the tenants of apartment houses on the East Side, and in particular the women of the families, are preparing for a rent strike in order to force prices down. A meeting was held in Apollo Hall, in Clinton street, last Monday to start things going and another meeting will be held next Tuesday in some place not yet designated.

In the meantime families in Cherry, Monroe and Sheriff streets have refused to pay rent for the coming month. It is estimated that perhaps 400 families are involved.

The tenants say that in view of business depression and of the difficulty of getting money the landlords should reduce prices. By refusing to pay at all they believe that they will accomplish their ends, the more so if the rent strike spreads to the extent that they hope and prophesy.

WORK FOR THOUSANDS OF MEN.

Pittsburg District Promises to Be Busy Again Soon After January 1.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 25.—By January 5 most of the mills in McKeesport, Glassport, Duquesne and up the Monongahela Valley as far as Monaca and down to Pittsburg will be in operation and more than 40,000 men who have been idle for several weeks will have returned to work.

It is also asserted that every mill in the Pittsburgh district will be in full operation soon after the new year. Officials of the following mills have said their plants will resume in full immediately after the first of the new year and that the 1907 standard of wages will be maintained: National Tube Works and its constituents in McKeesport, employing 10,000 men; Duquesne Steel Works, 6,000 men; Braddock Mills, 5,000 men; Homestead Mills, 7,000 men; Monaca and Charleroi Mills, 4,000 men; Clairton Mills, 2,000 men; Donora Mills, 1,000 men; Woods Mills, 1,000 men; McKeesport Tin Plate Company, 800 men; Glassport Glass Works, 300 men; Fifth Stirling Projectile Works, 500 men; Pittsburg Steel Foundry, Glassport, 325 men; Glassport Coke Works, 250 men, and Severn Bros. Works, Glassport, 100 men.

CHRISTMAS FAR UNDER GROUND.

Imprisoned Miners Have Feast and Send Greetings to Friends.

ELK, Nev., Dec. 25.—One thousand feet below the surface of the earth three miners to-day spent the strangest Christmas in the world.

Bailey, McDonald and Brown have been imprisoned in the Alpha shaft of the Giroux mine since December 1, and the rescue party has three weeks of work to do before they can reach the men.

But to-day they had a fine holiday meal, beginning with straight whiskey and topped off with coffee and cigars. Those facts "came up to light" via the modern telephone with which the mine is equipped at the 1,000 foot level.

The imprisoned men sent the most cheerful Christmas messages to all their friends by this means and said they had supplies enough to last until the debris above them is removed.

WILL COMPEL PEACE IN PERSIA.

Russia and England May Act Jointly—Powers Give Warning.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 25.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Tehran says that despite the promises made by the Shah the political situation continues critical.

The foreign diplomat met at the French Legation and it is reported that they discussed a proposal that they notify Persia that, unless measures are taken to pacify the city Great Britain and Russia will act jointly to restore order.

ICY SWIM FOR A DINNER.

Second Holiday Dip into the Lake of Two Hungry Chickadees.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Two Illinois Athletic Club swimmers, Nails Jager and Sophus Jensen, won the second instalment of their three cornered bet to-day by taking a plunge in the icy waters of the lake.

The bet was taken from the dock of the Chicago Yacht Club, the two swimmers in abbreviated bathing suits plunging from the deck among the cakes of ice that were floating in the basin.

Jager and Jensen made a bet that they would dive into the lake on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's, and to-day they won the second part of the bet. If they complete the series with a swim on New Year's Day they will be the guests of honor at a dinner to the water polo squad of the I. A. C. to be paid for by the other members of the team. If they don't the others will dine at their expense.

HUGHES HAD A CHRISTMAS TREE.

Governor Butler, but He Has Not Started to Write His Annual Message.

ALBANY, Dec. 25.—Gov. and Mrs. Hughes had a Christmas tree at the Executive Mansion and every one about the place was remembered by Mrs. Hughes. Charles Evans Hughes, Jr., a senior at Brown, is at home for the holidays.

Gov. Hughes's attack of grip has not proved serious and he may be able to get over to the Executive Chamber by Friday. He will be pretty busy for the remainder of the month framing his annual message, which goes to the Legislature next Wednesday. He has not yet started to write it, but he has been able to give some thought to the subjects he is going to treat, so that when he gets to the actual writing of the message his thoughts will be pretty well digested, as usual. Other Governors have had their messages about ready